



CURRENT STATUS OF SMOKE-FREE AIR LAWS IN THE UNITED STATES

ACC Poster Contributions

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Authors: Robin Mathews, Nancy Schneider, Eric D. Peterson, Duke Clinical Research Institute, Durham, NC

Background: Smoke-free legislation in the United States (US) is composed of a combination of individual state and local laws varying in levels of restrictiveness. The degree to which what proportion of the population is covered by current laws is unknown.

Methods: We examined current state and local laws in the US as compiled by the Americans for Nonsmokers Rights database, a comprehensive registry of clean air legislation in the US. We used geospatial mapping and linked laws to US Census data to determine the extent of coverage among the population. We categorized laws as weak, moderate, and comprehensive based on the level of restrictiveness.

Results: Approximately 80% of the US population is covered by some degree of 100% smoke free legislation. Most states (38) have at least moderate state wide restrictions while 22 states have comprehensive laws that require all workplaces, restaurants and bars remain fully smoke free. 47% of the US population is covered by comprehensive state wide smoking bans. 8 of 12 of states without comprehensive laws in place are located in the southern US while 9 of the 10 top tobacco producing states have moderate or weak state laws in place.

Conclusions: Though the majority of the US population is covered by some degree of smoke free legislation, less than half are covered by comprehensive laws. Due to the association of second hand smoke exposure and cardiovascular events, more comprehensive state wide anti smoking legislation is needed, especially in the southern US.

